(c) if so, whether Government feel that such a condition will severly restrict the participation by overseas bidders, thereby eliminating the environment of competition making the expansion of telecommunications suffer seriously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SURF RAM): (a) Government does not have such information.

(b) and (c) Yes Sir. This has been done to prevent monopoly tendency. This will not curtail foreign investment.

Demand to upgrade the skills of the workers

1249. SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any demand from the labour unions to make necessary action to upgrade the skill of workers of the Postal and Telecommunication departments or any one of them, so that they can compete with private sector in a competitive manner; and

(b) if so what is the reaction of Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes Sir. The Government has received the demands from three Staff Federations of Department of Telecom on training and retraining of staff to upgrade the skill/ education and to improve work culture. No formal demand has been received in the Dpartment of Posts.

(b) The Department of Telecom, has drawn up and is implementing elaborate training plans to upgrade the skill of group 'C and 'D' staff so as to enable them to handle new technology equipment. The Department of Posts has also prepared a comprehensive plan for training for skill upgradation and has created necessary infra-structure,

Disconnecting the telephones for non-payment of Bills

1250. SHRI JOYANTA ROY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be -pleased to state:

(a) the details of telephone numbers which were disconnected for non-payment of bills during the months of January, February and March till date, on the level of 60 in Delhi;

(b) whether the subscribers were informed before disconnecting the numbers

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor;

(d) what action has been taken against erring officers/officials who harassed the subscribers by disconnecting their phones on the presumption of non-payment; and

(e) the number of such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The number of telephones dis-connected for non-payment of bills of 60 level in Delhi were as follows:—

Jtnuary, 95	14 numbers
February, 95	239 numbers
March, 95 (till 16.03.95)	141 numbers

(b) Yes, Sir. In addition to registered notices, telephonic reminders were also given to the subscribers except in those cases where there was no response despite repeated attempts.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) In view of (b) above, there was no harassment to the subscribers. In all such cases the payment information was not received from the authorised branches of banks and the subscribers also did not inform about having made the payment either on